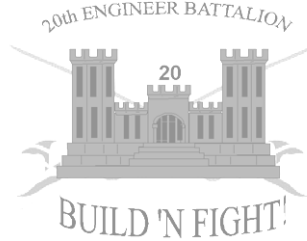




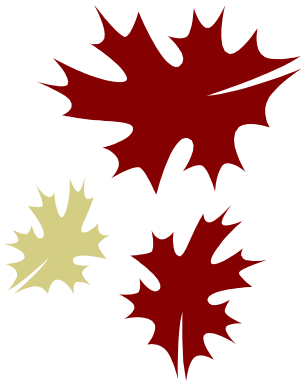
Bravo 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer  
Battalion

# BARRACUDA

## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2004



## B Company Newsletter September 2004



*"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all."*

- Stanley Horowitz

### Commander's Update:

The following is the Barracuda company vision and never more prevalent than this past month has the company lived up to it.

**Team Barracuda is a winning team that is Leader Driven, Disciplined, Ready for the Next Fight, and Motivated.**

#### **Core Values:**

**We Pay the Price to be Prepared**

**We are Professional Soldiers and Act Accordingly**

**We Develop our Leaders every day**

**We ALWAYS use Caring Leadership for our soldiers and their families**

August here in Baghdad just like back in Texas has brought the heat and with that the enemy has decided to continue its' offensive against the Iraqi people and the Multi-National Forces. However, unlike in April there was no surprise and the enemy found that the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team and especially the Barracudas were fully prepared to take the fight right back to them.

Short notice, high urgency, and always potentially dangerous missions were the norm this month and our soldiers responded magnificently each time. I fully believe it goes back to what we state in our company vision. We accomplish every assigned mission because we are winners and our leaders will not allow us to fail. Our team of leaders expends all effort to ensure their unit is ready for every mission. 2LT Derek Druin, SFC Jose Brito, and SSG(P) Ivan McStay are all heroes for their actions these past couple weeks, all done for the most part without their respective platoon leader or platoon sergeant who were back stateside for some much deserved leave.

The company missions this month were varied, as always, but remained focused around security in TF 1-12 CAV assigned area for both the Iraqi people and our forces. Our team has been utilized to secure Task Force logistical assets enroute from Camp Eagle, occupy counter-mortar positions in order to deny the enemy from firing on US base camps, secure the United Nations compound, and continuous patrols in our assigned sector.

### What's Inside:

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New Babies Pg. 2

FRG Corner Pg. 3

Upcoming Events Pg. 3



Bravo 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer  
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### Cont. Commander's Update

We also conducted another joint mission with the Iraqi National Guard (ING) to capture militia members suspected of firing RPG's at one of our patrols. We conducted a cordon and search of the target house and detained several personnel and evidence to help convict them of crimes against the Iraqi people and MNF-I forces. SSG John Bryant, PFC Vervenir Astorga, and SPC Jonathan Love all performed above during the operation as part of the search team or detainee handling team. The company responded as a Quick Reaction Force to an ING checkpoint that was under enemy fire. SSG Willie Hodge maneuvered his unit in support while SGT Timothy Barksdale positioned his forces to the enemy flank. The fighting was fierce but the enemy was defeated and forced to retreat. The entire patrol were heroes to include SPC William Beard for his use of his M240B machine gun and SPC Michael Weger for being the first man over the wall into an enemy engagement area as well for his precision use of the M203 grenade launcher.

The highlight of the month had to be the company's performance as part of the 1BCT offensive operations in Sadr City. The brigade took the fight right to the enemy's backyard and the Barracuda's were right there in the middle of the contact. The operation lasted over 72 hours. In that period, our boys found over 15 pieces of ordnance that were rigged as IED's, captured weapons and ammunition, detained several personnel, and entertained about a thousand young children. The battlefield was harsh, but not one soldier quit giving 100% and then some the entire time. Every soldier in the company was vital to include the crew manning of the TOC, to SGT John Torkelson and SPC Robert Ashley recovering damaged equipment from the battlefield, to the fighting HQ section of SGT(P) Martel Middleton, SGT Brennan Stanfield, SPC Juan Custodio, and 1LT Calvin Kroeger, to every soldier in the platoons (too many heroes to list).

I talked a lot about fighting and combat operations this month, but rest assured our soldiers continue to do their part with civil military operations. We continue to be the American face on the streets of Baghdad. Our family members back home should be proud as I know they are. We are proud of all of them especially of Holly Love wife of SPC Jon 'Buddy' Love who just gave birth to a baby girl, Presley Grace. SSG Sherman England is also a new Grandpa (four times over now) as his daughter Anne gave birth to her son Jeremiah. We also are happy to welcome to the Barracuda family Lichele Mason recently married to SPC Solomon Mason and PFC Keyshia Means and her three children Chrishawa, A-Niya, and A-Miya.

Bless us all and continue to keep us safe! BARRACUDA!



### Welcome New "Barracuda" Babies!!

- 👤 Presley Grace born to SPC Jon and Holly Love.
- 👤 Jeremiah born to SSG Sherman England's daughter, Anne.



Bravo 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer  
Battalion

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## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2004



### FRG Corner

Hello All,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you have done in support of Bravo Company. Our fundraising was very successful and we have planned a lot of nice things for our soldiers and their families. We are very proud to call Bravo, our company.

Here are a few dates to keep in mind:

- 📅 Sep 25, Sat: Video Clips for Christmas DVD, 9-12, Family Readiness Center, 75<sup>th</sup> St & Old Ironsides.
- 📅 Oct 1, Fri: B Co FRG Meeting (Potluck), 6pm, Family Readiness Center, 75<sup>th</sup> St & Old Ironsides.
- 📅 Oct 11, Mon: Battalion Christmas Boxing Event (more to come on time and location)
- 📅 Oct 15, Fri: B Co Ladies Night Out (more to come on time and location)
- 📅 Nov 2, Tue: Jewelry Fundraiser, 10-3pm and 5-7pm at Beth Holmes's House
- 📅 Nov 12, Fri: B Co FRG Meeting, 6pm, Family Readiness Center, 75<sup>th</sup> St & Old Ironsides.
- 📅 Nov 18, Thu: BN Thanksgiving Potluck, 6:30pm, (more to come on location).
- 📅 Dec 11, Sat: BN Christmas Party (more to come on time and location).
- 📅 Dec 17, Fri: B Co Christmas Party, 5-9pm, BLORA.

It will be a busy several months but we are very excited for what's coming up. Hope you can find time to enjoy the above events with us. God bless all of you, Barracuda soldiers and families. Jessica, Morgan, and Stacy

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Fort Hood Youth Sports:**

Seasons start on September 11  
Cheerleading & Soccer: Open to kids in K-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
Flag Football: Open to kids in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The cost is \$35 for the first child and \$31.50 for additional children in the same family. Volunteer coaches receive discounts! Coaches may register their first child for free and each additional child for only \$17.50. Children must be registered with CYS Central Registration in the Rivers Building (#121) prior to participating in youth sports.

Call Central Registration at 287-8029, or the Youth Sports Office in Bronco Youth Center at 288-3770 for more information.

#### **Officer's Club:**

**Every Week-** Sunday Brunch, Beef and Burgundy on Tuesday Nights, and lunch every Tuesday through Friday.

#### **AAFES Events:**

- 📅 **SEPT 11, Sat, Toyland Opening Petting Zoo, 0900-1300**  
Clear Creek PX is doing the grand opening of TOYLAND, complete with a petting zoo with approx 50 animals, 6 pony carousel, and a camel.
- 📅 **SEPT 18, Sat, DVD Signing Mario Van Peebles, 1200-1400**  
Hot TV and Movie actor, Mario Van Peebles will be signing his brand new DVD release of BADASSSS!
- 📅 **SEPT 18, Sat, Book Signing, 1100-1300**  
We will have two female authors that will be signing their book titled "SISTER GUMBO: Spicy Vignettes from Black Women on Life, Sex and Relationships".
- 📅 **Oct 2, Sat, 5th Annual Pet Show, 0900-1300**  
Once again, back by popular demand, the Clear Creek PX 5th annual pet show. In addition a very special appearance will be made by the famous TV dog, LASSIE, who will be on hand for the LASSIE DVD release.